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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shinji HAMADA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1745

Appl. No. : 09/614,769

Examiner: J. MAPLES

Filed : July 12, 2000

For : BATTERY MODULE, AND RECHARGEABLE BATTERY FOR
CONSTITUTING THE BATTERY MODULE



Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, and supplemental to an Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 12, 2000 and January 12, 2001, Applicants hereby bring to the Examiner's attention the following documents, which were cited in a European Search Report dated November 29, 2001 for counterpart European Application No. EP 00 30 6002:

(1) U.S. Patent No. 5,871,861 to HIROKOU et al., which issued on February 16, 1999, was cited as an X-Category document (i.e., document which is particularly relevant if taken alone) with respect to claim 1 of the European application; a Y-Category document (i.e., document which is particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category) with respect to claims 2, 3, and 9 of the European application; and an A-Category

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document (i.e., document of technological background) with respect to claims 4-11 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 6, line 20 - column 9, line 4; column 12, line 20 - column 14, line 59; and claims 1-14 to be relevant;

(2) U.S. Patent No. 3,650,842 to BOUGARAN, which issued on March 21, 1972, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 2 and 3 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 3, line 26 - column 4, line 4; and claim 1 to be relevant;

(3) Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 017, no. 549, which was published on October 4, 1993 & (member of the same patent family, corresponding document) Japanese Patent Publication No. 5-159769, which was published on June 25, 1993, was cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claim 9 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated the Abstract to be relevant;

(4) European Patent Application No. EP 0 766 327, which was published on April 2, 1997, was cited as an X-Category document with respect to claim 1 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated the whole document to be relevant. Applicants also include a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,766,798 to BECHTOLD et al., which issued on June 16, 1998. This document is an English language patent family member of EP 0 766 327;

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(5) European Patent Application No. EP 1 059 680, which was published on December 13, 2000, was cited as an E-Category document (i.e., earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date) and a L-Category document (i.e., document cited for other reason) with respect to claims 1-11 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 4, line 18 to be relevant;

(6) U.S. Patent No. 3,981,742 to YONEZU et al., which issued on September 21, 1976, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1 and 4-7 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 4, line 30 - column 5, line 50; and claims 1-10 to be relevant;

(7) French Patent Publication No. 2 370 368, which was published on June 2, 1978, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 2 and 7 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated page 1, line 31 - page 4, line 37; and claims 1-8 to be relevant. Applicants also include a copy of GB Patent No. 1 590 947, which was published on June 10, 1981. This document is an English language patent family member of FR 2 370 268;

(8) U.S. Patent No. 4,138,533 to STEIG, which issued on February 6, 1979, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 2 and 7 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 3, line 7 - column 4, line 48 to be relevant;

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(9) U.S. Patent No. 4,267,243 to PARK et al., which issued on May 12, 1981, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 2 and 8 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 4, line 31 - column 5, line 48; column 6, line 54 - column 7, line 7; and claims 1-5 to be relevant;

(10) U.S. Patent No. 4,603,093 to EDWARDS et al., which issued on July 29, 1986, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10 and 11 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 4, line 4 - column 6, line 51 to be relevant; and

(11) U.S. Patent No. 4,480,018 to DE BELLIS et al., which issued on October 30, 1984, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 10 and 11 of the European application. The European Examiner indicated column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 41 to be relevant.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents, as well as a copy of the European Search Report, are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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Applicants note that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b) (3)), and thus no fee is believed to be due.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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